What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

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SHANNA SCHMIDT NUMISMATICS INC

Newsletter #204:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello! I hope you all had a great week. I'm just sitting here enjoying a little sun in my office. It's been a cold week but the sun decided to come out. Spring is well on its way. There are lots of things happening in the next few weeks. Many of them I have already discussed in the previous newsletters but if it hasn't yet happened I'll give a little reminder below.

SSNI's Carefully Curated Catalog #3
This is my third installment of the Carefully Curated. The coins in this list were recently purchased for stock and haven't yet made it up on my site or vcoins. You will find Greek, Roman, Romaion (Byzantine) and some world coinage in my catalogs. I will put about 20-25 coins in the listings to keep them short and sweet. If anything looks compelling to you please just write to me at shanna@shannaschmidt.com or you can call me at 708-655-4836.

Go to catalogue

K&F is just around the corner and I discussed this in last week's newsletter so please see the link below and get in touch if you need my help. I will be actively bidding.
Here is a link to the catalog

Davissons Auction 42 (closing 1 March)
I mentioned this in an earlier newsletter so just a reminder that this is closing soon. It functions as a timed auction but with no buyer's premium. This particular catalog has some really great Anglo-Saxon pieces from the Patrick Zabel collection.
Check it out

Gorny & Mosch 293/294 (6-8 March)
G&M has 817 lots in the first catalog. The collection of Prof. Dr. Wolfram Weiser is at the end of the first catalog with 140 lots of Roman and Byzantine lead seals. I have to applaud the cataloguer, which I believe to be Dr. Weiser himself, who meticulously describes almost each seal in detail. Most of the seals are estimated at no more than a few hundred euros. This is the sign of a dedicated collector and enthusiast when I see such things. Obviously the attention to detail in descriptions bring so much more to the sale. Good luck to Dr. Weiser in the sale of his collection.

The rest of the catalog consists of the regular fine quality that one comes to expect from G&M. Some lots that caught my eye were lot 21, a wonderful 5 Asse example from the Ratto sale of 1926 and a Vecchi plate coin. The rarity is quite high with only 17 in existence. Lot 68 is another plate coin from Akragas and is from the Tom Virzi collection (Hirsch 32, 1912, lot 24). The cover coin is lot 90, a beautiful drachm from Naxos. It is ex NFA 1987 and Ex Vinchon 1985. It was professionally cleaned but the key word is professional so don't hold it against them! It is good and correct that they mention it. There is a very reasonably priced Abdera stater with a griffin on the obverse and a man with a club on the reverse. Some have recently gone in the six figures in auction. This example from a 2003 Baldwin's auction is estimated at a mere 7500 Euros. Lot 178 is a lovely silver didrachm of Larissa from the BCD collection. Lot 327 is a high quality Andragoras AR tetradrachm with a sharply struck Tyche. Lot 360 is a charming AR tetradrachm of Ptolemy IV, Philopater. It has the jugate bust of Serapis and Isis. In the Roman section lot 380 is a tetradrachm of Hadrian with Sabina on the reverse from Tarsos in Cilicia. It is from an NFA auction in 1992. There is a very affordable Ahenobarbus denarius (lot 458) from a 1978 Münz-Zentrum sale. Lot 481 is a wonderfully struck and perfectly centered Caligula/Germanicus denarius. Lot 619 is a well struck (for the type) double sestertius of Postumus. It comes from a 2006 CNG sale. For late Roman there is a very rare Valentinian III gold solidus (lot 648).

Catalog 294 are all world coins composed of various private collections one of which from Dr. -Ing. Fritz Spruth (1895-1991). Dr. Spruth was a director of a mine, an author and a collector of numismatic coins. Some of the most exciting coins in the auction are from his collection. Many of the coins are German origin and have lovely toning from sitting in a cabinet certainly for years. A few standouts for me: lot 1004 a beautifully toned reichstaler of Friedrich III from Brandenburg/Prussia struck in 1701. Lot 1050 is an attractive reichstaler struck in 1666 from Nürnberg. Lot 1053 is a coin that would have spoken to the collector directly: It shows two miners on a meadow holding a coat of arms cartouche on a pedestal. On the reverse is a miner on a one-handed conveyor reel on a meadow, in the background landscape with the rising sun. Lot 1129 (cover coin) is a beautifully toned reichstaler from Frankfurt and struck in 1762. Some of the coins from the collection were found in mines and have images which show mining scenes which makes their history all the more interesting. Later in the auction comes lot 1541 which was unsold in the October sale last year. They have since lowered the estimate from 25,000 to 18,000 euros so hopefully someone will be interested. It is a bronze plaquette from 1943 which was suggested to be from the factory of Oskar Schindler. The translation of one of the paragraphs gives some possible evidence to its authenticity.

bit larger and stamped and engraved, i.e. not completely cast like the present piece. It can be speculated whether this piece, whose whereabouts we unfortunately do not know, was in connection with "Schindler's suitcase"; a spectacular find of documents and other belongings that Schindler had left behind in Hildesheim after the war. However, it is very likely that the piece presented here was taken from the specimen that turned up in the 1990s before the end of the war. Above all, the way of production speaks for it. We are dealing here with a very rough casting of the kind that was possible in Schindler's works in Kraków or in Brünnlitz. The type of surface treatment also speaks for it. The type of surface treatment also speaks in favor of this. The piece is tinned, not silver-plated. This also corresponds to the production possibilities of the DEF in Kraków and in Brünnlitz. part of the small gifts among friends that Schindler used to give out."

Take a look yourself and see what you think. They build a good case for its authenticity and while from a sad period in history, it brings a glimmer of hope that existed for the Jewish people that were helped by this man.

Künker Spring Sales, Auction 382-386 (16-24 March)
Künker was also detailed last week. I'm still assembling lots to look at for customers so please get in touch if you need a catalog (I still have the ancient coin auctions of which there are two separate catalogs) or if you need viewing/bidding done. To reiterate, I will be traveling to Osnabrück to VIEW these coins in hand. Take advantage of this benefit and get in touch soon if you would like representation help.

Coin of the Week

MACEDONIA. Perseus. Under Zoilos. 179-168 BC. Pella or Amphipolis.
AR Tetradrachm, 17.03g (35mm, 12h). Laureate head right with stubble beard / Eagle with wings back standing on a thunderbolt; ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΠΕΡΕΣΩΣ above and at eagle's legs. Monogram E to r.; wreath surrounding.
Pedigree: Ex Sotheby & Co., London, Auction 22. April 1970, Lot 98 (Fritz Collection)
References: SNG Saroglos 958-960; Mamroth 5
Grade: Beautifully struck with cabinet toning and nice relief. EF
Price: $7,000
gk1606

Buy Coin

Perseus was the last of the Antigonid Empire to control the area of Macedonia. Antigonus I Monophthalmus (the 'one-eyed') was one of the successors to Alexander the Great. After Alexander's death in 323 BC his vast empire was divided among his closest military advisors and friends. Antigonus took the area of Macedon. The Antigonids were not always in control of the area however. When Antigonus got ambitious and attempted to overtake all of Alexander's empire a battle ensued and he was killed at the Battle of Ipsus in 301 BC. His son Demetrios Poliorcetes managed to regain the throne but eventually became a prisoner of war to Seleucus I, another of Alexander's confidants that oversaw part of the empire (where Syria is today). It was only some years later that Demetrios II, the son of Demetrios Poliorcetes, was able to regain Macedonia under the Antigonids in 276 BC. The Antigonids and the Seleucid dynasty still intermingled despite earlier conflict. Perseus was married to the daughter of the Seleucid King, Seleucus IV.

The advancing Roman army wrestled the area of Macedonia away from the Antigonids and the successors of Alexander the Great in 168 BC when they won the Battle of Pydna. From that point forward Macedonia became a province of the Roman Empire. It also showed the strength of the Roman legions over the military inadequacy of the once powerful Greek phalanx. The Roman general Lucius Aemilius Paullus even went so far as to place a statue of himself next to the holy Temple of Apollo at Delphi. A spot that was being reserved for a statue of Perseus. On the base of the statue he proclaims "Lucius Aemilius, son of Lucius, set this up from the spoils which he took from King Perseus and the Macedonians". (see Mary T. Boatwrights, People's of the Roman World, p. 71 for more on this).

Check out coin on my website

If you are interested in any other coins I have to offer please visit my website: shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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